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The Astorian guarantees to its advertisers the largest circulation of any newspaper published on the Columbia River.

THE FAILURE OF MISREPRESENTATION.

The Portland Journal insists that it has no other interest in the jetty rock contract than to see the work carried on with promptness. The Journal is not telling the truth. It doubtless is anxious to see the jetty work carried on in a satisfactory manner, but at the very commencement of its brainless agitation it protested against the awarding of the contract to the Northwest Construction Company, notwithstanding that the local firm offered to furnish the rock at a much less figure than was contained in the bid of Hale & Kern. The Journal has been intensely hostile to the Astoria company ever since it started on the contract, magnifying the difficulties that at first beset it, charging that it was furnishing insufficient quantity and quality of rock, and contending daily that the company could not possibly live up to the terms either of the first contract or of that which is to be awarded later.

There was never an effort on the part of any one to make it appear that the contracting company did not at first fail to deliver such quantities of rock as the terms of the agreement specified. Unlooked-for difficulties arose. The agents of the government knew this, but, because of the fact that the Northwest company had presented a bid far below any other submitted, there was a disposition to afford the company every reasonable opportunity to make good. The company has succeeded in overcoming the first difficulties and is now furnishing much more rock than the contract calls for. It has arranged for a supply that will meet all the requirements of the government and is in position to successfully bid on the contract shortly to be awarded. The reasonable attitude of the government engineers at the outset has not only saved a large sum, but it has placed the Northwest Construction Company in position to accept future contracts at a price greatly less than that demanded by other firms.

The awarding of the rock contract necessitates the use of a reasonable amount of reason. When bids are asked for the local firm will, it is to be presumed, present an offer. If that offer is lowest and best, as will undoubtedly be the case, it will be accepted. Then the esteemed Journal will rave again for six months or a year, the while the company is fulfilling its contract and the jetty is being extended. It will appreciate that its constant misrepresentation has counted for naught—that the government follows a plan by which it gets the best possible returns for its investments.

AMERICA NO PLACE FOR HITCHCOCK.

The announcement is made from Washington that Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock has refused to allow Asa B. Thomson to continue as receiver of the La Grande land office, because of the fact that Mr. Thomson was indicted by the federal grand jury for alleged misfeasance in office. The specific charge against the official was that he had accepted a bribe. He was tried in the federal court by a jury and found not guilty.

"The secretary (Hitchcock) informed Senator Fulton," says the Washington announcement, "that the mere fact of Thomson having been indicted indicated that 'something was wrong,' and the indictment, regardless of whether Thomson was adjudged innocent, had

impaired his usefulness as a government official."

Hitchcock's administration of the interior department has stamped him one of the greatest failures of the age. For months past he has displayed the most serene disregard for all the proprieties in dealing with his subordinates, and has ignored fundamental rights that even the most thoroughly accomplished Russian would not dare interfere with. He has come to regard all federal office holders in his department as thieves or grafters, because a few officials were found to have been derelict. He has incurred the bitter and lasting enmity of many senators and congressmen, and his pronounced officialism has aroused a protest everywhere.

This latest promulgation of the head of the interior department is perhaps the most astounding of all. Thomson was charged with having accepted a bribe. The charge originated with one Charles Cunningham, a wealthy sheep owner, and it became apparent at the trial that the accusation was merely the result of an overzealous disposition on the part of Cunningham to make Thomson do his bidding. The jury listened to the evidence and acquitted the receiver.

A few great principles underlie the foundation of our republic. One is, in effect, that the courts shall determine the guilt or innocence of an accused person. It is the intent of the constitution that the standing of a man accused and acquitted of crime shall not be impaired; otherwise our courts would be a failure. A man regularly adjudged innocent of crime is, and should be in the eyes of the world, as free from suspicion as if he were never accused. Hitchcock has gone behind all this. He has decreed that a man acquitted of crime shall be regarded with suspicion in future, and, worst of all, he has committed the government to his idea in the matter. He has shown himself to be un-American in the broadest sense of the word, and it is sincerely to be regretted that the president finds it expedient to keep him in the important position which he occupies. America is no place for Mr. Hitchcock; Siberia offers a better field for his particular adaptability as an administrator.

NOT ELIGIBLE.

"No person holding a lucrative office or appointment under the United States or under this state shall be eligible to a seat in the legislative assembly; nor shall any person hold more than one lucrative office at the same time, except as in this constitution expressly permitted. Provided, that officers in the militia, to which there is no annual salary, and the office of postmaster, where the compensation does not exceed \$100 per annum, shall not be deemed lucrative."

In nominating Mr. A. M. Smith for state senator, the democrats, or citizens, as they call themselves, have overlooked the fact that Mr. Smith is not eligible to the office of state senator, unless he chooses to resign the city attorneyship. The office of city attorney is created under the constitution of the state of Oregon and is a lucrative position.

Personally The Astorian has nothing to say that would in any manner reflect upon the democratic candidate even if he were eligible, but this paper must certainly insist that a county several hundred republican has no business electing a democrat when they have such a candidate as Dr. Jay Tuttle. Besides a losing fight will have its influence on the election next year and the senator chosen next June will have a vote in choosing a successor of Senator John H. Mitchell.

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